GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2380
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
COTTON PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of the cotton produced in the country is not according to the international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for the production and research on high quality cotton?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): No, Sir.The quality of cotton produced in the country is at par according to the International standards.

(b): Question does not arise.

(c): To increase the production, productivity and quality of cotton, the Government of India is implementing a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) which consists of four Mini Missions.The Mini Mission-I deals with research aspects of cotton by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) while, Mini Mission-II is meant for development and extension activities and looked after by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.Mini Mission-III is for improvement of Market yard and Mini Mission-IV is for modernization of ginning and pressing factories which are looked by the Ministry of Textiles.

The Mini Mission-I deals with research and development of improved cotton production and crop protection technology and is being implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).The ICAR has initiated appropriate steps to evaluate new geno-type with high fibre quality as well as to restore the genetic potentiality of Extra Long Staple Cotton.The development of long linted diploid deshi cotton (PA 255, PA 402, NH 452) having high productivity, early maturity, excellent fibre quality and tolerance to biotic & abiotic stresses for cultivation under rainfed cotton which helped the marginal farmers to raise quality cotton.

Mini Mission-II deals with the developmental programmes for increasing production and productivity of the cotton and is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.Under this Mini Mission assistance is provided for production and distributions of seeds of varieties/hybrids not older than 15 years, transfer of technology through demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers, insecticides resistance management,plant protection measurement including IPM demonstrations, supply of sprayers,pheromone traps,bio agents as well as water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation system etc.

The Mini Mission-III focuses on the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like constructions of market yards, auction centers, grading facilities,laboratories for testing of cotton qualities etc.The upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to improve quality of cotton is undertaken under Mini Mission-IV.Mini Mission-III & IV with the main aim to improve the quality of cotton, are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.